

JUL 18 2008

REMARKS

Applicants previously presented claims 13-16, 23-26 and 33-46 for examination. The above-identified Office Action and Office Communication rejected all the claims. In this Reply, to expedite the prosecution, Applicants have cancelled previously pending claims 13-16, 23-26 and 33-46; cancelled previously withdrawn claims 17-22 and 27-32; and added new claims 47 to 68. Accordingly, claims 47 to 68 remain pending for examination. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the application in light of the amendments.


Support for the newly added claims can be found in numerous areas of the specification, for example, in col. 8, line 37 to col. 9, line 32 of U.S. Patent No. 5,779,486, which was incorporated by reference into this specification in the "Cross-Reference to Related Application" section via U.S. Pat. Appl. 08/618,193. That application was subsequently issued as indicated in Applicants' submission in Dec. 2003.

It is submitted that claims 47 to 68 are patentably distinct from the cited references. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner, upon reconsideration, determines that an action other than an allowance is appropriate, the Examiner is requested and authorized to telephone Applicants' representative prior to taking such action, if the Examiner feels that such a telephone call will advance the prosecution of the present application.

Any required fee in connection with the filing of this response is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0727.

Respectfully submitted,

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